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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
03-32

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Resolution Passes to Create Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

*Senator Birkholz acts on another Great Lakes Conservation
Task Force Recommendation*

Tuesday, June 3, 2003-Senator Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, today announced the recent Senate Passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 which calls for the creation of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus.

“There are several significant multi-state, multi-national bodies which attempt to coordinate research and policy within the Great Lakes basin. However, none of these groups have the authority to implement legislation,” said Senator Birkholz. “This resolution corrects that and implements another of the Great Lakes Conservation Task Force’s recommendations.”

The Caucus would be comprised of legislators from the eight states in the basin, Ontario, and Quebec and would meet on a yearly basis to exchange knowledge and perspectives in tackling some of the important issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries. It also provides an opportunity for legislators to study and adopt model legislation from other jurisdictions, such as Michigan’s ballast control measures.

“The adoption of similar policies region wide will also help create a unified voice, emphasizing the importance of the Great Lakes issues while sending a strong message to federal lawmakers,” said Birkholz.